

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

281457Z Jan 05

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 000496

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Condoleezza Rice Comes to Turkey - Sabah
Attack Against Election Office in Iraq Kills 16 - Sabah
Compensation Paid to 'Armenian Genocide' Victims - Sabah
Warning From Erdogan On Kirkuk - Hurriyet
Genocide Compensation to Armenians from US Company -
Hurriyet
Letter from Edelman to Minister Ergezen on Gold Mine
Operation - Milliyet
Erdogan: "UN and US Will Pay the Bill for Mistakes in
Kirkuk" - Milliyet
The Bill for Kirkuk Will be Heavy - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

Turkey to Host 'Strategic Guests' from US - Cumhuriyet
Genocide Compensation - Cumhuriyet
Warning from Erdogan on Kirkuk - Cumhuriyet
'Golden' Letter from the US - Radikal
Rice to Visit Turkey in February - Radikal
Rice and Feith Come to Turkey for Iraq - Yeni Safak
US Favors Kurds in Election - Yeni Safak
Erdogan: "The Election in Iraq is not Democratic" - Zaman

BRIEFING

PM Erdogan's Warning About Kirkuk: All papers cover the
statement PM Erdogan made at a press conference before his
departure to Davos. Erdogan said that 'the US and the UN
should never allow the formation of unfavorable structures
in Kirkuk. If they turn a blind eye to such mistakes, they
may have to pay a heavy price.' Erdogan said that Turkish
concerns about Kirkuk had been conveyed to all relevant
officials, including President Bush. Responding to
questions by foreign journalists in Davos, Erdogan said that
developments in Kirkuk are 'not positive.' 'It would not be
possible to characterize the upcoming election in Iraq as a
fully democratic election,' Erdogan added. 'Turkiye' draws
attention to the words of Foreign Minister Gul that 'Turkey
has conveyed its concerns to all concerned parties, and we
hope that our warnings will be taken into consideration'.
'Aksam' reports that Richard Boucher, the US State
Department spokesman, said that 'no one claims that these
elections will be perfect, but they will be an important
milestone on the road to democracy.'

Rice and Feith Visits to Turkey: Most papers report about
upcoming visits to Turkey by Pentagon Undersecretary Feith
and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. 'Cumhuriyet'
speculates that Feith will convey the latest developments in
the US global defense posture review. 'Hurriyet' says that
undersecretary Feith is coming to Turkey to convey US
concerns about Iran's nuclear program and to ask for more
flexibility in the use of Incirlik air base. 'Cumhuriyet'
refers to Rice and Feith as 'strategic guests.'
Soldier Killed in Alleged PKK Attack: 'Cumhuriyet' reports
that a Turkish soldier was killed and a second was wounded
when suspected PKK/KONGRA-GEL militants opened fire on a
jandarma station in a rural area of Mardin province.

Amb. Edelman Seeks Support for A Gold Producing US Company:
'Milliyet' reports that Ambassador Edelman sent a letter in
September 2004 to Public Works Minister Ergezen in
connection with the activities of an American mining company
in Turkey. The production activities of the American
company, 'Normandy,' in the town of Ovacik had been
suspended in 2004 by a court decision based on environmental
concerns. Ambassador Edelman's letter urged Minister

Ergezen to advise the Izmir governor to reopen the mine. The company subsequently resumed operations. A ministry official said the issues surrounding the mine had been solved before the letter was received. Local residents, however, complain that the process for the granting of permission for the operation had been accelerated as a result of 'US pressure.'

Baykal Set to Retain CHP Leadership: Most media predict that CHP Chairman Deniz Baykal will retain his leadership position in the party at the extraordinary party conference to be held this week in Ankara. Baykal will face a challenge by Sisli Mayor Mustafa Sarigul, but most papers believe Baykal is comfortably ahead among voting delegates to the convention.

American Insurance Company Pays Compensation to Armenians: "Sabah" reports that New York Life Insurance company paid \$333,333 in compensation to each of five Armenian Foundations as part of a settlement with descendents of Armenians massacred in the 'Armenian genocide' 90 years ago.

EDITORIAL OPINION: : IRAQ ELECTIONS

"Elections in Iraq: Dreams and Ghosts"
Sami Kohen observed in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (1/28):
"There are several reasons to be suspicious about the timing, legitimacy, and implementation of the upcoming elections in Iraq. The country is under occupation, and the elections will be held under the shadow of coalition forces. Moreover an atmosphere of chaos and violence prevails in Iraq. Voters are afraid of going near the election centers. In addition, the Sunnis have already declared a boycott in their region. As Rami Khouri from Beirut's 'Daily Star' newspaper aptly noted, the ongoing process in Iraq is like an election conducted by ghosts and invisible people. . Realistically speaking, the elections in Iraq should be interpreted as an initial step toward normalization and the political reorganization process in Iraq rather than an indication of democracy. Once the new parliament starts working on a new constitution and paves the way for a genuine election next year, Iraq will have a new political structure and a regime with greater legitimacy. There are two indications that will show whether or not this is happening. First of all, the US should establish a withdrawal plan and implement it as quickly as possible. Second, the security situation should be improved in Iraq. These goals will be extremely difficult to achieve. They remain a dream, at least for the time being."

"The Mafia Lie About the Iraq Elections"
Mehmet Ocaktan argued in the Islamist-opinion maker "Yeni Safak" (1/28): "The massacre mafia, which made torture a routine practice under the pretext of democracy and freedom and has looted Iraq, is now working on a new phase of its plan. The election on Sunday is going to be a new chapter of the occupation, and it is so dirty that not only Iraq, but the entire region is on the threshold of eternal hatred. The occupiers seem to have lost their senses completely. The election ballots are being set up in cities that were, until recently, killing fields. And we are asked to believe that this is proof of democracy. Is it possible to build a democracy where thousands are tortured or assaulted and kept as prisoners in their own country? Who can possibly believe in such a lie? . The transfer of authority to the people of Iraq is a lie to disguise the fact that the US is creating a CIA-linked puppet regime there. The elections will be completely based on US interests. The Sunnis are mostly out of the picture, and the results will likely bring a victory to the Kurds and Shiites. . Each new development in Iraq is a new alarming sign for Turkey. The establishment of a US-sponsored Kurdish state in Kirkuk and Mosul is underway, and Turkey will eventually find itself in this fire."EDELMAN